

REMARKS

Claims 4, 13, 22, 34, 45, 52, 58-93 and 97-112 were pending in the present application at the time of the Office Action, to which new claims 113-120 have been added.

Claims 4, 13, 22, 34, 45, 52, 58-92 and 97-107 stand allowed.

Claims 93, 108 and 110-112 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,651,209 to Morsberger et al. ("*Morsberger*").

Claim 109 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For at least the reasons stated below, the Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections and objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Turning first to the rejection of claims 93, 108 and 110-112 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Morsberger*, the Applicant respectfully traverses such rejections.

As stated in the Office Action, former claim 109 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (*i.e.*, former claim 93) and any intervening claims (of which there were none). This response amends former claim 93 to add wording generally analogous to former claim 109. Thus, the Applicant submits that claim 93, as currently amended, is allowable over *Morsberger*, as are all claims depending therefrom, including claims 107-113.

Objection

Turning next to the objection to claim 109 for depending from a rejected base claim, the Applicant traverses this objection. As explained previously, this response amends former claim 93, from which claim 109 depends, to add wording generally analogous to former claim 109. Thus, the Applicant submits that since claim 93, as currently amended, is allowable, claim 109, as currently amended, which depends from claim 93, is also allowable.

New Claims

This response adds new claims 113-120. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that such new claims are allowable.

New dependent claim 113 depends from claim 93, which as discussed previously, is allowable. Thus, the Applicant submits that new claim 113 is allowable.

New independent claim 114 represents former dependent claim 107 written in independent form. The Office Action states that former claim 107 is allowable, and thus, the Applicant submits that new claim 114 is allowable.

New dependent claims 115-120 each depend from independent claim 114. Thus, for at least the reason discussed previously with regard to claim 114, the Applicant submits that new claims 115-120 are allowable.

Final Matters

The Office Action makes various statements, including statements regarding pending claims 93, 108 and 110-112 and the *Morsberger* reference, that are moot in light of the amendments and/or arguments presented previously. Thus, the Applicant did not address such moot statements at the present time. The Applicant, however, explicitly reserves the right to challenge any of such statements in the future should the need arise (*e.g.*, if such statements should become relevant by being stated in a future rejection of any claim).

Summary

In summary, the Applicant respectfully submits that the various rejections and objection stated in the Office Action have been overcome with regard to claims 93, 108, 109 and 110-112. The Applicant also submits that new claims 113-120 are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant courteously solicits an expeditious notice of allowance for all pending claims. If the Examiner disagrees or has questions regarding this submission, the Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 312-775-8000.

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Resp. dtd. May 29, 2007
Reply to Office action of Dec. 28, 2006

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fee(s) or credit overpayment(s) to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

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Respectfully submitted,

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